

DL 100-12009

alive, she desires to go about it other than through or with the aid of the Committee of Liaison. She advised that she strongly disapproves of the Committee of Liaison being allowed to deal with the Hanoi Government. She advised that she would not be willing to testify at any type of hearing against members of the Committee of Liaison for fear of placing her husband's life in jeopardy.

FBI

Date: 9/23/70

Transmit the following in _____

Airtel

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-170616)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF US DELEGATION TO
NORTH KOREA AND NORTH VIETNAM
JULY-AUGUST, 1970, LED BY
ELDRIDGE CLEAVER
IS-MISCELLANEOUS

ReNytel to Bu, 9/17/70. 345,570

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of a self-explanatory LHM; enclosed also for the Bureau are 11 copies of a list consisting of 126 pages each setting forth pertinent data obtained by US Customs officials from 374 POW letters found in possession of ROBERT SCHEER upon entry.

Copies of instant airtel with LHM attached are being designated for individual case files at office of origin where delegation members are believed to be maintaining current permanent residences. One copy furnished to Chicago Division because of passport address of ANN FROINES.

Re destroyed

ENCLOSURE

3-Bureau (Encls. 13) (RM)

3-Boston (Encls. 3) (RM)

1-Chicago (Encls. 1) (RM)

3-New Haven (Encls. 3) (RM)

3-San Diego (Encls. 3) (RM)

9-San Francisco (Encls. 9) (RM)

1-157- (HUEY NEWTON)

2-1-157-1204 (BPP)

COPIES CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

ENCLOSURE

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

NOV 6 1970

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

DATE 10/23/70 BY [Signature]

Per [Signature]

NY 100-170615

Copies Continued:

San Francisco (cont'd)

[REDACTED] L2c 30 MAR 72

- Los Angeles (Encls. 3) (RM)

- Washington Field (Encls. 1) (INFO) (RM) L2c

[REDACTED]

LHM is being disseminated locally as follows:

4-108th MIG, NYC
1-NISO, NYC
1-OSI, NYC
1-INS, NYC
1-Secret Service, NYC

b2c LHM is classified, "Confidential" inasmuch as the unauthorized disclosure of information furnished by source, [REDACTED] would tend to reveal his identity and thereby have an adverse effect upon the national defense interests of this country.

The arrival of delegation at JFKIA, NYC, and press conference were covered by the following SAS:

[REDACTED] L2c 30 MAR 72

SA [REDACTED] made the tape recording of the press conference. This is being maintained in the 1A Section of the NY file.

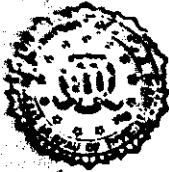
NY 100-170616

80 12/12/70

The literature set forth in LHM was obtained without authorization by NYO agents during the Customs inspection. This literature will be forwarded by separate cover letter to the Bureau for review for intelligence purposes and for possible dissemination to other interested Government agencies. It is noted that the name of [REDACTED] appears on the front inside cover of the book, "Kim Il Sung, Biography (I)", indicating the possibility that all **b2c** of this literature belonged to [REDACTED] **b7c**

b7c The two reels of tape recordings were reviewed at the NYO on 9/18/70 by SA [REDACTED] and Customs Agent [REDACTED] **b7c** Duplicates of these tapes were not made inasmuch as they were found to contain only oriental music. Since these tapes were obtained by Customs together with the 10 reels of film, it is speculated that the tapes are intended to be used as background music during the showing of the film.

The NYO will continue to furnish any information developed in captioned matter.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

September 23, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. NYfile (100-170616)

POW/MIA Special EO. 1281
INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/22/93 BY 902 [redacted]
345,570
b2c
PO MIA-2

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by
Eldridge Cleaver

On September 16, 1970, Special Agents (SAs) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) observed the arrival of passengers aboard Air France Flight 707 from Paris, France at 4:20 p.m. at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFKIA), Jamaica, New York City (NYC), New York (NY). Among the passengers on Flight 707 were members of the United States (US) Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation. The members of the delegation and their baggage were inspected by United States Customs (USC) Agents at the International Arrivals Building of JFKIA.

Mr. [redacted] Director of Customs, JFKIA, furnished the following information concerning the members of the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation which consisted of ten individuals:

1) Regina Blumenfeld
[redacted]

2) Randy Rappaport
Care of Ross
[redacted]

DECLASSIFICATION
DATE 3/27/83 BY [redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~GROUP 1~~

~~Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification~~

DECLASSIFIED
ON 3/27/83 BY 60855
b2c

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE
ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by
Aldridge Cleaver

3) Alexander Hing

[REDACTED]

4) Janet Austin

[REDACTED]

5) Hideko Pat Sumi

[REDACTED]

6) Ann Froines

[REDACTED]

7) Janet Kranzberg

[REDACTED]

8) Elaine Brown

[REDACTED]

9) Robert Scheer

[REDACTED]

BO 1-2-70
624

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by
Eldridge Cleaver

10) Andrew Truskier

[REDACTED] advised that an inspection of the baggage belonging to Robert Scheer revealed that he was in possession of a package containing 374 letters from American Prisoners of War (POW) to addressees in the US. The envelopes reflected the name of the POW and a serial number of an apparent military nature.

Upon the examination of the baggage of Scheer, he refused to open the package containing the 374 letters and thus Customs Agents then seized this package for examination purposes. Scheer protested this seizure as did other members of the delegation. As of 8:00 p.m., September 16, 1970, Customs Agents were attempting to locate members of this delegation in order to return these letters after having obtained pertinent data reflected on the envelopes.

On September 16, 1970, USC Inspector [REDACTED] advised that he had conducted an inspection of the baggage of Andrew J. Truskier, a member of the delegation, and Truskier orally advised him that he and the delegation had been in the following countries:

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
North Korea
North Vietnam
Communist China
Algeria
France

Mr. [REDACTED] advised that other members of the delegation admitted that they had only traveled to Algeria and France. He advised that the only visa stamps on the passports of the delegation members were at France and Algeria.

Prior to the arrival of the members of the delegation aboard Air France Flight 707, a shipment of material belonging to the delegation arrived at JFKIA aboard another aircraft and was inspected by Customs officials.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by
Eldridge Cleaver

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
INVESTIGATION

Date: 9/17/70

Mr. GEORGE K. BROWN, Director of Customs, John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFKIA), New York, New York (NY), exhibited a shipment of material addressed to the Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation which arrived at the airport prior to the arrival of Flight 707 Air France, September 16, 1970 at 4:20 p.m., bearing the ten members of the delegation.

The initial inspection revealed that the material consisted of six packages of pamphlets and books which appeared in most part to be written in North Korea.

The following pamphlet titles were observed:

"Kim Il Sung, Let Us Embody More Thoroughly the Revolutionary Spirit of Independence, Self-Sustenance and Self-Defense in all Fields of State Activity. New World Liberation Front U.S.A. 1970"

"Kim Il Sung, The Present Situation and The Tasks of our Party, Pyongyang, Korea, 1968"

"Let us Women Become Revolutionary Fighters Infinitely Loyal to the Party and the Leader and Reliable Builders of Socialism and Communism by Revolutionizing and Working Classing Ourselves, Pyongyang, Korea, 1969"

"Major Battle Sites of Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle in the Homeland" (photographs)

"V.I. Lenin on Defense of the Socialist Motherland"

"U.S. Imperialism-The Sworn Enemy of the Korean People, Pyongyang, Korea, 1969"

On 9/16/70 at New York, New York File # NY 100-170616
by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 9/17/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of Unit States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by
Eldridge Cleaver

NY 100-170616

2.

"Kim Il Sung, On Further Developing the
Daeam Work System, Pyongyang, Korea, 1968"

596 page book entitled, "Kim Il Sung, Biography
I, Baik Bong, Mirakisha, Tokyo, Japan, 1969,
From Birth to Triumphant Return to Homeland"

Included in the above shipment were two large green
canisters. One canister contained six cans of Korean films
labeled, "Korean Films". The second canister contained two
tapes labeled, "Deutsche Demokratiseka Republic". Films and
tapes were retained by United States Customs for review and
are in the custody of Mr. [REDACTED] United States
Customs, Restricted Merchandise, 201 Varick Street, NY, NY.

62
50 1-1-71

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1

Date 9/22/70

A press conference was scheduled to be held following the arrival of the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation (USPAID) at John F. Kennedy International Airport at Jamaica, New York on September 16, 1970.

20 m p m
The press conference was attended by Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who recorded the proceedings of the conference. Also recorded was a pre-conference statement made by ALEX HING, commencing approximately at 6:01 PM concerning the alleged detention of some 379 letters from prisoners-of-war by United States Customs officials.

At approximately 6:04 PM, ALEX HING spoke with one Mrs. EYLEE CORNIER and some newsmen separate and apart from the stage set-up for the scheduled conference.

A copy of the transcript of the tape recording taken in the Press Conference Room of the International Arrivals building at John F. Kennedy International Airport on September 16, 1970, as well as a copy of the statement made by ALEX HING and his subsequent discussion with Mrs. CORNIER in the same Press Conference Room is attached.

20 m p m
On 9/16/70 at Jamaica, New York File # NY 100-170616

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/22/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

- 6 - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Questions and remarks of Mrs. Cormier and Mrs. Mc Manus enclosed in parentheses on following were not recorded, but were copied by an Special Agent (SA) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of US Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July, August, 1970 Led by Eldridge Cleaver

Press Conference at International Arrivals
Building, JFK International Airport,
Jamaica, New York on September 16, 1970

The following is the text of a statement of Alex
Hing preceding the Press Conference (time approximately 6:01 PM).

Alex Hing:

I understand that there's two wives of prisoners of war being held in Hanoi. I just want to make one statement: that the pigs have just stolen the letters that were entrusted to us, 379 letters that were entrusted to us by the people of Hanoi to the relatives and friends of the prisoners of war. It clearly shows that the United States Government does not care what's happening. Also, there was a tape that Elaine Brown had, it was a message to the American people from Eldridge Cleaver and the pigs have ripped that off also. That's all I want to say.

Unidentified newsman:

Who did this the Customs? Please identify yourself.

Alex Hing:

My name is Alex Hing of the San Francisco Red Guards.

Unidentified newsman:

When you say swine, who did this, Customs or somebody.....

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver
Alex Hing:

Customs.

Unidentified newsmen:

Did they say why, give you any reason?

(Following his announcement of the alleged seizure of the P.O.W. letters, Alex Hing was approached by newsmen away from the dais and Mrs. Eileen (Arthur) Cormier, who advised she was associated with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia (NLFAPMSA), 1 Constitution Avenue, Washington D.C. 20002. A Special Agent of the FBI observed the following:

Mrs. Cormier asked Hing what his intentions were concerning the delivery of those letters, particularly if he would have turned them over to (NLFAPMSA) for delivery. Under her continued queries, Hing advised he had no intention of relinquishing control of them, that the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation (USPAID) had an organization set-up for their delivery, that the Black Panther Party (BPP) wished to personally handle each delivery.)

The following is the text of the Press Conference which commenced at approximately 6:30 PM:

(Robert Scheer)

To begin this press conference, let me introduce our delegation. This is the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation. It was convened under the leadership of the Black Panther Party and it was directed by its International Section and the chief of the delegation is Eldridge Cleaver who could not be here today because the US Government has hounded him

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

(Robert Scheer)-continued:

into exile. The delegation consists of: Pat Sumi of the Movement for a Democratic Military; Randy Rappaport for Womens Liberation; Jan Austin, an editor of Ramparts Magazine; "Judith" (unintelligible), student organizer from Berkeley; Ann Proines of the Panther Defense Committee in New Haven; Janet Kranzberg of Newsreel, the film group; Andy Truskier - one of our members is still in Customs. We didn't know that or we would not have come out here and they are still hassling him - ; and Alex Hing of the Chinatown Red Guard. To begin with, we and Elaine Brown, who will officiate at this press conference, sorry. To begin with, as part of the humanitarian policy of the North Vietnamese government, they have allowed letters to leave that country from prisoners of war to their families in this country. That is the only route for information from mail to get families. In accordance with that humanitarian policy, we were carrying out 374 letters. We thought we were doing this in the highest sense of citizenship, that it was the correct thing to do, so we did not hide the letters. We did not sneak them through and when the Customs official asked me if I was carrying them I said yes. They then tried to take them from me; I said that he could not do that. I opened up the package showed him that they were letters, that there was nothing else. He then said that they would have to read the letters and they would have to write down the names of all of the pilots. I was instructed by counsel that that would not only be violating my rights but it would be violating the rights of those pilots. The letters are personal letters, they were not intended for the US Government to read and the information as to the pilots' names could be used against them by the US Government which has shown no concern for their well being whatsoever.

Our position is that: the US Government is a criminal government that got those pilots in a position where they performed the highest war crimes; the bombing of Vietnam presents the highest war crimes that any society has ever committed; and we are not allowed to allow the US Government to play any kind of role whatsoever in connection with those letters and we do not trust the US Government in anyway whatsoever.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

Unidentified newsman:

How did the government,....

Robert Scheer:

The US Government now has those letters....let me finish my statement....then we will have questions after.... The US Government now has those letters under bond inside. We will go into Federal Court and demand that those letters be released and then we will deliver them personally. I can assure you that there will be no future delivery of letters if the US Government insists on seizing them and its the US Government therefore which bears full responsibility for breaking this link between pilots, the only link between pilots and their families. And the US Government has hypocritical used the pilot issue to obscure the issues involved in Vietnam, they sent these astroants and others are phony missions which have not accomplished anything and here is a real link between the pilots and their families and it has been broken now and this is an historic step that the US Government has taken and they have to be held accountable. We will discuss your question of the pilots and the letters after we have made our prepared statements. In addition to comrade Andrew Truskier still being held in Customs, comrade Elaine Brown was seized from our group, was taken off, we have no information about her they will not let us see her, and it was only through strenuous effort on the part of the lawyers and Huey P. Newton of the Black Panther Party supreme commander that we were able to secure her release. She is here but Andrew Truskier is still inside.

I would like to read a prepared statement and then comrade Brown will make her statement and then we will take questions.

The US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation arrived in New York today after a two month trip to North Korea, North Vietnam and China. As a result of this solidarity tour the American Movement has effectively established warm relations with the revolutionary movements of Asia. Convened by the Black Panther Party's International Section, the delegation, which represents a cross section of American Left, was headed

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver
(Robert Scheer)-continued

by comrade Eldridge Cleaver, Minister of the Black Panther Party and myself - Deputy Chief of Information Robert Scheer. This delegation's tour of the capitals of Asia initiated a new policy of peoples' diplomacy. This policy was proven successful because we were officially received in Pyongyang, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. We were first delegation of Americans received in that country since the US war with Russia against that country. We were in Hanoi, the capital, of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and of Peking the Peoples Republic of China and we were the first delegation received in that country since the start of the cultural revolution four years ago.

We met with many officials including Premier Than Van Dong, General Giap of the DRVN, Prince Noodham Sihanouk who we met in Peking head of the National United Front of (unintelligible)...and others. The leaders of these countries recognizing the distinction between the government of the American empire and the American people themselves have asked us to bring to the American people the warm greetings and solidarity of the forty million Korean people, the forty million Vietnamese people, the three million Laotian people, the eight million Cambodian people and the seven hundred million Chinese people. And the trip....those were official greetings sent by those governments - by the revolutionary governments - in those societies to the American Movement...our trip undercut the efforts of the US Government to isolate the American people from over one quarter of the world's peoples. We were there to answer the lies of Spiro Agnew who travelled to the pitiful outpost of the US empire in South Korea, South Vietnam and Taiwan while we visited the seventy per cent of the Asian people who have literally been liberated. Agnew was forced to literally sneak into Seoul to meet with US puppet Pot Cha Mei (phonetic) into Saigon to meet with the Pu Chi puppet clique, into Taiwan to see with the infamous Chang Ka Shek while our delegation moved freely among the people and met openly with the peoples governments and were received as comrades-in-arms.

Through radio broadcast, press conferences and our free travel among the people we expressed our unequivocal opposition to US imperialism which is meeting its end in Asia. We demonstrated at Panmunjon in front of US troops stationed in the demilitarized zone in Korea demanding the immediate end to the illegal occupation of South Korea. In visiting all of these

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of U.S. States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver
(Robert Scheer)-continued

countries and witnessing the US imposed divisions among all peoples, by seeing the devastation the US troops and their allies have laid upon innocent people in their home lands, by seeing that the US empire is reviving the Japanese militarism as a shock force for its aggressive designs in Asia - the Nixon doctrine - we have recognized that the aggressive war now being perpetrated against the Vietnamese people is not an isolated war, but part of the major US policy of world domination, imperialism aimed at all of Asia. Therefore, the only alternative we have as human beings is to halt this move for world domination by uniting the broad masses of American people who are already opposed to the war in Vietnam into a strong force that consciously and actively opposes the overall US policy of imperialism in Asia.

We call for and are actively engaged in building a US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Front. We will begin our work... that's called the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Front....we will begin our work by establishing anti-imperialist information centers on the east and west coast for communication among those inside the United States fighting US imperialism and between the American people and the anti-imperialist movements of the world.

Now our first task, well, I described that was to deliver these letters, we were not allowed to do that. In the future, we will provide a channel through which the American Anti-Imperialist Movement can communicate with GIs of Vietnam through letters, radio broadcasting and other means of communication. We will also hold mass rallies and meetings to demonstrate solidarity with those fighting against US imperialism. For example, we call for and plan to organize a rally on January 23, the date on which the US spy ship Pueblo was caught red-handed in sovereign territories waters of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, that is January 23 date of the demonstration, and we will have it nationwide in many cities after consultation with different sectors of the movement. And we will demand here and now and pledge ourselves to work to obtain complete amnesty for the Minister of Information of the Black Panther Party, Eldridge Cleaver, who has been unjustly forced into exile by the US Government. Now comrade Elaine Brown, Deputy Minister of Information of the Black Panther Party, will make a statement.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

Elaine Brown:

We have just left comrade Eldridge Cleaver in Algiers and in Algiers we attended the opening of the International Section of the Black Panther Party. This office formerly occupied by the provisional revolutionary government of South Vietnam will also serve as the first US Peoples Embassy. The opening on September 13th was an historical occasion as it was attended by representatives and ambassadors from the Chinese Embassy, the Korean Embassy, the Embassies of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and the provisional revolutionary government of South Vietnam, representatives from the Algerian government, from the liberation organizations of Africa as well as by the US Peoples Anti-Imperialist Delegation. It was clear here too that the Black Panther Party had been recognized as the vanguard force to the revolutionary struggle of the people of the United States, but this has been demonstrated throughout our trip in Asia. We were told by Premier Tham Van Dong of North Vietnam, of Prince Sihanouk exiled leader of Cambodia and leaders of China, Korea and Laos that they denounce fascist repression against the Black Panther Party and in particular the vicious US plot to murder the chairman of the Black Panther Party Bobby Seale and the demand of his immediate release from prison. And the Black Party has demonstrated its active support of the struggles of the Asian peoples against imperialism not only in the past but also in that we have offered our troops to assist the Vietnamese people in their current struggle for liberation and we have specifically Eldridge Cleaver and myself broadcasted over the voice of Vietnam radio to the American troops in the South to aid on the struggle of the Vietnamese people. And we have declared to the Korean and Chinese people our militant support now and in the future. We have a message we'd like to play from comrade Eldridge Cleaver and then we'll close the statement and be open to questions.

(Tape of Eldridge Cleaver):

We are working with the concept of Peoples Diplomacy to offset the diplomacy of the State Department and (unintelligible) specifically William Rogers and politicians and we are (unintelligible)...I think they know we're going to do that and are uptight about and they are going to be more uptight before its over because we have a lot of things in the program. The concept of peoples' diplomacy relates to alienation between the people and the government, the fact that the government has been usurped by a clique of the ruling class and they have turned it into an instrument of fascism and imperialism

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver
(Eldridge Cleaver - continued)

and aggression and war. And the American people have the duty to rise up against this and to create other machinery that would truly express their interest, work in their interest, to help all to combat their enemies. This is what we will be doing through the International Section of the Black Panther Party.

Robert Scheer:

And just add that we did manage to bring in a tape from comrade Cleaver to his mother and Customs people did not seem to observe that. We did not know that we would have the honor of having the presence of comrade Huey Newton, supreme commander of the Black Panther Party here today, and we had intended and we will close this press conference with a quotation from our leader and comrade Huey P. Newton. Here is the quotation:

"There is not one fascist or reactionary government in the world today that could stand without the support of United States imperialism. Therefore, our problem is international. The United States is an empire which has raped the world to build its wealth here. Therefore, the United States is not a nation. It is a government of international capitalism and inasmuch as they have exploited the world to accumulate wealth, this country belongs to the world. We cannot be nationalists when our country is not a nation but an empire. We contend that it is time to open the gates of this country and share the technological knowledge and wealth of the peoples of the world....Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense, Black Panther Party".

And that states the basic position of the United Front Against Imperialism and Racism.

Unidentified newsmen:

Can you answer our questions now?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver.

Robert Scheer:

Right, now the Custom officials wanted to read the letters. If those pilots said to their wives that they opposed the war or if they committed war crimes or if they have seen the destruction of their bombing and now realize that they are war crimes, then the US government has ample precedence for bringing charges of treason, cooperation for aid and comfort of the enemy and what have you against those pilots. When pilots have been released in the past and I happened to notice because my former wife escorted three pilots back from Hanoi two years ago, those pilots have while they're on the plane out of Hanoi or even in Paris expressed very strong sentiments against the war, when they got to this airport they were ripped off by state department officials in customs, taken off to military bases and given briefings in which they were told that they would be tried in US courts if they continued to make these statements. So we were therefore protecting the legal right of those pilots to private communication with their families which is the form in which those letters were written.

Unidentified newsman:

Mr. Scheer, a US Customs official just a few moments ago told another reporter and myself that your allegations are untrue. Those letters were not seized....

Robert Scheer:

That they were not seized? They're more arrogant than I thought...I have a receipt right here, it is receipt number 578121. So they lie to you in a grosser fashion as they lie to the people. Any other questions? They're so arrogant, can you imagine that? A pig lying like that?

Unidentified newsman:

Mr. Scheer are.....

Robert Scheer:

You'd think that reporters were stupid you know?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970; Led by Eldridge Cleaver
Unidentified newsmen:

Do you think that it is possible that they would cut off all future letters as a result of this thing?

Robert Scheer:

The position of the Vietnamese government was communicated to us very clearly. They feel that the acts, in the strongest terms, that the acts committed by the pilots and by the US Government over Vietnam are war crimes, that the US Government has perpetuated the greatest war crimes in history over North and South Vietnam. However, they went to great pains to say that they believe in the humanitarian treatment of prisoners and they were interested in encouraging exchange of information in letters from those prisoners. They were very strong in insisting that they would not do it in any way that would aid the US Government in obscuring the nature of the war, its policy there or the acts committed by the bombers. So they stated very clearly that acts such as Borman's trip, I forget this Texan's name who took the plane to Laos and so forth, they see those as blatant propaganda moves on the part of the US Government to conceal the nature of the war, to focus attention on the issue of the pilots and their treatment and their release and ignore the war crimes that have been committed in Vietnam, ignore the fact that over a million people have died in that country, ignore the civilian casualties and so forth. They will not cooperate in any scheme that obscures the nature of the war. However, they have cooperated I think excellently with those people in the United States who oppose the war and are interested in pursuing that humanitarian policy. And it was that in mind that we carried these letters here. We were treated as criminals, you know, if we would have had the worst kind of drug you know, a really harmful one, they would have treated us in a more kindly fashion. And it was very clear that they were threatened by American people, American people having a link with revolutionary people and taking care of business which was what we were doing, and they don't give a damn about the pilots, and they don't give a damn about those letters, you see. What they are really interested in is breaking off any contact between the American people and the Vietnamese people and those pilots for that matter.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1954, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

Unidentified newsman:

Mr. Scheer, just a question about this receipt.
(repeated)...It doesn't say anything here about letters, it says "Hold for screening one package" and Customs officials told another reporter and myself that this could possibly be a package of film. Where you carrying all 379 letters in one package?

Robert Scheer:

I opened up the brown package in front of four Customs officials, I showed them - see they're letters, they're written on forms that the Vietnamese given to the pilots - each letter comes in the same envelope, it's clearly nothing else but a letter, it's very thin. You see this is the first time that I opened the package as I felt that I had no right to do that. But in the interest of getting these letters through, realizing that they could claim they were film or something else in that package I opened up the package, showed them the letters, you see, and that's when they grabbed the letters and I grabbed them back and they insisted on taking down the names of each of the pilots and their families and opening the letters and reading them. And so at that point I held the letters and at that point they put me in this room, and I must admit that there was one half-way decent fellow who came to bail me out, but there were two pigs in that room, closed the door started to search me and the whole business, but finally, realizing that there was press out here and that it would look bad they (unintelligible)....so we wrapped it up again and they put that bond on. But they know they're lying, they know they saw the letters, you know, and they just have a whole cynical attitude to the question.

Unknown newsman:

How did they let the Eldridge Cleaver tape through?

Robert Scheer:

Because they are only interested in letters, they asked me about the letters when I went through and I did not hide the fact that I had and they were after the letters. They took it seriously and they were interested in breaking this contact, he asked me are you carrying any letters, and I said yes.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver
(Mrs. Eileen Cormier):

I do have one question. I wished you'd answered for me. I liked to know did the North Vietnamese supply the paper for these pilots to write on, or if the (unintelligible)... how can they say anything about their war crimes when their aggression toward North Vietnam is to the full extent itself (unintelligible).....

Robert Scheer:

Well, as you know because you are familiar with this problem when pilots have wanted to make statements about the war, the government has facilitated making those statements and they are not interested in putting any obstacles to their making statements about the war. What they don't want are obviously sending back letters that would be used by the US Government to conceal the barbarious and criminal nature of its actions over Vietnam. And I am not going to spend any more time on this question of the letters because the US Government is now responsible and I want to talk about the napalming that those pilots have performed. We can show you pictures of the napalm victims, we went through Vietnam and saw the buildings that were destroyed, every single medium or large size city in Vietnam in North Vietnam with the exception of Hanoi was completely leveled to the ground by the US sky rats air pilots and I think that we have gone far enough with this concern for the humanitarian treatment and will end it there. Anyone else, any other questions?

(Mrs. Cormier, aside to newsmen - "You can't argue with them, since they (reference to USPAID) have not seen P.O.W. camps").

Unidentified newsmen:

Alright, one question. This trip to Communist China, North Vietnam does this change your mind towards the American policy?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of Unit, States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver
Robert Scheer:

It doesn't change anything for me, because the whole group was dead opposed to US imperialism in the world. But we did come to understand is that Asian Communism does represent in a sense a wave of the future that the quality of life available for the average person, for the mass of people in China, in Korea and in North Vietnam is higher than that as available in even the most modern capitalist countries, that the people are enthusiastic and united behind the government, that there is a degree of freedom in those societies unknown anywhere in the world and I think that if we could have only known by reading articles say about the cultural revolution but we are in China which no American reporter has been in, and you see that students there run the university and that workers and peasants come into the universities and run them, and that the alienation of the bourgeois intellectual from the mass of people has been eradicated. And you see a society in which there are no class a class of society towards that is communism that it is very nice to be able to visit a place and see work. And we know that the cultural revolution in China and in Vietnam and Korea has been enormous success and we know for the first time contrary to the speculation of revisionists and pessimists in other parts of the socialists world which caved in, that in those countries the people have found a way to move to the future and we think that the reasons US is interested in obliterating Asian Communism, it knows it works and they know it could be attractive to the American people and they want to stop it because it's too attractive and they want to stop any contact with them.

Unidentified newsmen:

Would you have any objections to turning these letters over to these two women....

Robert Scheer:

I was going to turn the letters over to the families concerned, we were going to give them personally to make sure that they were not screwed around with, and we were going to do that very rapidly. And if you will check out for example the pilots that have been brought back in the past, you will find that the anti-war movement has been very considerate, has not put any obstacles in their getting back

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver.

(Robert Scheer - continued)

with their families and has in every way tried to facilitate that and contrary to the pigs we are not interested in screwing people over, you know, and we are interested in politics and we are interested in revolution and not in making these pilots the brunt of the real war criminals which are the people in Washington.

Unidentified newsmen:

How can this trip benefit the Panthers in jail. They're in jail in just about every state in the country. Is this trip going to benefit them by getting them out of jail?

Elaine Brown:

Well, the only way that the members of the Black Panther Party which are now being held as political prisoners of war in the United States are going to be freed is of course through the efforts of the people, the mass of people in the United States so that we have the solidarity and the support of over one quarter of the world's population and that kind of support is certainly going to aid in doing that. Any other questions?

Robert Scheer:

We don't want to take any more questions about the letters, we think that we have exhausted that.

Elaine Brown:

Is there anything else that anybody wants to ask about because this is the US Peoples Anti-Imperialism Delegation which has been to the capitals of the free world, you see, and so are there any questions particularly about what we have done or like this I guess we will have to answer them.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Travel of United States Delegation
to North Vietnam and North Vietnam
July-August 1970, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

Unidentified newsman:

While you were in Hanoi, Pgonegyang (phonetic) and Peking did you get an opportunity to talk to other, to other public officials and what (garbled)

Elaine Brown:

We saw in those areas as comrade Scheer has explained is that we saw people being human beings, we saw people cooperatively living together, we saw workers for example who are not only paid fair wages but who receive free medical care, free child care, and free housing and clothing, who have as they say not one word but who have not anything to worry about in the world. And we saw people cooperating in China with each other as he explained in Chu Y (phonetic) university in Peking. We saw students and workers and teachers all collectively working together for one project for all of the people, for all those people have not the economic worries of the average US citizen so they can go on to be more creative and more human in their lives. These are the kind of things that we saw in these areas.

(Unidentified woman):

(unintelligible)....(Mrs. McMannus)

Elaine Brown:

Yes of course but we specifically mentioned China because of the fact that they have just moved out of the phase particularly known as the Proletarian Cultural Revolution. But in Korea you see the people working together at all areas of work, people working together, there child care centers, they are the same kinds of opportunities for people to live together and be creative and to live together as human beings. But this is the first time in our lives that we had seen masses of people in all three countries, in all three capitals of Asia. This is the first time in our lives that we have ever seen human beings responding to each other as human beings. Other questions.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Unidentified newsmen:

What particular kind of jackets are you wearing?
(garbled)....

Elaine Brown:

A particular kind....these are jackets, oh (obscene)
you can recognize that. Well they are jackets that Agnet
can't buy.....in Peking.

Unidentified newsmen:

(unintelligible)....are there any kind of message....

Elaine Brown:

He says that solidarity of the forty million Korean
people and that he hopes that the American people will
stand behind them in their struggle to reunify peacefully
the forty million Korean people which are now suffering under
the US imposed division of one whole people, particularly as
a demilitarized zone and in the South people are suffering
under fascist repressions under the US puppet Pop Chan Yei
(phonetic) who allows himself to be called Chang Yei Pop
(phonetic) by the Americans, and also has a Japanese name,
so this is how much of American people support for his work
for a peaceful unification of the forty million Korean people.

Unidentified female:(Mrs. Mc Manus)

Miss Brown do you speak both Chinese and Vietnamese?

Elaine Brown:

I speak American, you know....

Unidentified female: (Mrs. Mc Manus)

Do you speak Chinese?

Elaine Brown:

No I can't speak Chinese nor Vietnamese.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1960, Led by Eldridge Cleaver
(Mrs. Mc Manns)

So, then...(what you are saying here is what you were told by the "interpreters"? - How else did you know if you do not know their language?)

Elaine Brown:

There is a certain feeling language people have...

(Mrs. Mc Manns)

So all of your information would have to come from an interpreter?

Elaine Brown:

Uh, I don't know what that means...are there any other questions that anybody has?

Robert Scheer:

I just want to say something about that question, ma'am, we did have a great deal of people with expertise in the group about the question about China, North Korea, Vietnam and (unintelligible)....at the University of California (unintelligible)....about the question it is very interesting that here we are the first people to see China personally, China stars, newspaper reporters who are supposed to be experts heard and examined rumors you know coming out of Hong Kong, year old papers and give all these big analysis, and we have come back from China and there really isn't anyone here from the press that seems to be concerned of what is the most vital human experiment that history has known. I also want to make one point, a closing about the Black Panther Party and that is the degree to which this is true, that the very clear point that which all of these movements were united was on the vital role of the American movement and their total support and they have very clearly expressed their point of view that they feel that the Black Panther Party in the United States is playing a vanguard role. I was in China.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1960, Led by Eldridge Cleaver.

(Robert Scheer - continued)

Korea and Vietnam and they call us comrades-in-arms because this delegation was formed by the International Section of the Black Panther Party and the chief of the delegation was Eldridge Cleaver. And it was a tribute to the work of the Black Panther Party and to comrade Cleaver that they treated our delegation as happened to be a fellow that was sent to the Chinese Studies, comrades-in-arms and they expressed full solidarity in the complete integration of these struggles and that's what our anti-imperialist front and our delegation was all about, and we can end on that point and thank you.

Elaine Brown:

Power to the people!

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970, Led by -- --
Eldridge Cleaver

A characterization of the Black Panther
Party (BPP) appears in the appendix
attached hereto.

On September 16, 1970, a confidential source
who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised
that upon the conclusion of the press conference at JFKIA,
the members of the delegation proceeded from JFKIA to the
residence of actress Jane Fonda, 33 East 74th Street, NYC,
in order to attend a reception party. The source advised
that Huey Newton, Minister of Defense of the BPP, attended
the press conference.

B012812-2
WC

On September 18, 1970, Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] JFKIA, advised that the package containing
the 374 letters were returned to Robert Scheer on September
17, 1970. Mr. Brown furnished a list of the 374 letters which
included the name of the POW, his serial number of an
apparent military nature, and the addressee.

On September 18, 1970, Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] USC, 201 Varick Street, NYC,
advised that the shipment of film belonging to the delegation
which had arrived at JFKIA aboard another aircraft was
examined by USC, NYC. This shipment included ten reels of
.35 millimeter film, and consisted of five positive reels and
five negative reels. These films were documentary in nature
and for the most part attempted to enhance the image of North
Korea. For the most part, the propaganda of the films was not
directed against the US Government but was intended to
demonstrate the success of the internal operation of North
Korea. He advised that some portions of the negative reels
which had a Korean commentator directed criticism against the
US Government. As of September 18, 1970, Mr. Fishman was in
possession of the above film.

The two tapes labeled, "Deutsche Demokratische
Republic" were reviewed and found to contain oriental music
without lyrics.

The September 19, 1970 late city edition of the
"New York Post", carried an article on page 12 entitled,
"The PW Letters In The Mail". In this article it was stated

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 1970; Led by
Eldridge Cleaver

that the 374 letters written by the US POWs and seized by Customs officials on September 16, 1970 were returned to the delegation on September 17, 1970. This article stated that Robert Scheer had said that the letters were mailed immediately after their return by the Government. In this article Scheer stated that the delegation planned to distribute pamphlets and books "on how to make a revolution", working in conjunction with the BPP on campuses throughout the US.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Travel of United States Delegation
to North Korea and North Vietnam
July-August, 70, Led by Eldridge Cleaver

APPENDIX

1.

BLACK PANTHER PARTY
Also Known As
Black Panther Party for Self-Defense

According to its official newspaper, the Black Panther Party (BPP) was started during December, 1966, in Oakland, California, to organize black people so they can take control of the life, politics and the destiny of the black community. It was organized by BOBBY SEALE, BPP Chairman, and HUEY P. NEWTON, BPP Minister of Defense. NEWTON was sentenced in 1968 to serve 2 to 15 years after being convicted of manslaughter in connection with the killing of an Oakland police officer.

The official newspaper, "The Black Panther", which further describes itself as the "Black Community News Service", states that the BPP advocates the use of guns and guerrilla tactics in its revolutionary program to end oppression of the black people. Residents of the black community are urged to arm themselves against the police who are consistently referred to in the publication as "pigs" who should be killed.

"The Black Panther" issue of September 7, 1968, contains an editorial by BPP Minister of Education, GEORGE MASON MURRAY, which ends with the following:

"Black men. Black people, colored persons of America, revolt everywhere! Arm yourselves. The only culture worth keeping is a revolutionary culture. Change. Freedom everywhere. Dynamite! Black Power. Use the gun. Kill the pigs everywhere."

Included in the introduction to an article appearing in the October 5, 1968, edition of "The Black Panther" is the statement, "...we will not dissent from American Government. We will overthrow it."

Issues of "The Black Panther" regularly contain quotations from the writings of Chairman MAO Tse-tung of the People's Republic of China and feature MAO's statement that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

The national headquarters of the BPP is located at 3106 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, California. Branches have been established at various locations throughout the United States.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NORFOLK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 10/27/70	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/26/70 - 10/7/70
TITLE OF CASE COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED] b7c	TYPED BY [REDACTED]
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS - MISCELLANEOUS; FORM- REGISTRATION ACT	

REFERENCES: Norfolk report of SA [REDACTED] 8/31/70;
Norfolk letter to Bureau, 9/24/70;
Baltimore letter to Bureau, 9/28/70;
Bureau letter to all offices, 10/12/70.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Extra copies of this report are being furnished to the Bureau because of the widespread interest in this case.

foi/ma Serial 60-1512

7/22/93 983 345570 b7c

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	PUB.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
								PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED <i>RUI</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[REDACTED] b7c</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: <i>4 destroyed</i>		100-1512-115	REC-5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Bureau (100-457899) RM 1 - Alexandria (Info) RM 1 - Baltimore (100-27337) (Info) RM 1 - Chicago (Info) RM 1 - New York (100-108458) RM 1 - WFO (Info) RM 1 - Norfolk (100-8823) 		17 NOV 4 1970	

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Violations ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE <i>67c</i> Deleted Copy Sent by Letter Dated Per FOIPA Request
Agency	RAC-ESD			
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.	11/16/70			
How Fwd.	65			

52 NOV 9 1970

COVER PAGE

NF 100-5833

LEADS

Information copies are designated for Alexandria, Baltimore, Chicago, and WFO in view of their investigative interest in this matter.

NORFOLK

AT [REDACTED] VA. Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED] *b7c*
dated 9/ [REDACTED] pursuant to Baltimore letter *b7c*

(2) Will recontact Mrs. [REDACTED] *b7c*
[REDACTED]

COVER PAGE

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to:

Report of:

Date:

Field Office File #: 100-8833

Title:

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF
SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)**

Character:

**INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS;
REGISTRATION ACT**

Synopsis:

Additional relatives of Prisoners of War (POW's) in North Vietnam contacted. Mrs. [redacted] Wife of a POW, advised COLIFAM forwarded her first letter and additional letters from her husband.

- P -

DETAILS:

On July 17, 1970, the Baltimore Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation contacted Mrs. [redacted] wife of [redacted] who has been missing in action (MIA) in North Vietnam since August, 1966. She advised that she attended the meeting at the home of Mrs. [redacted] in March, 1970, at [redacted] Virginia, at which time she met Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ affiliated with COLIFAM, and furnished him a card which contained her husband's name as well as her own name and address. She stated she had not received any correspondence from COLIFAM and did not intend to write COLIFAM for assistance in determining whether her husband was being held as a POW. She claimed she had taken notes at the meeting mentioned above, but her notes were at her [redacted] residence. She anticipated returning to [redacted] in August, 1970 and stated she would attempt to locate the notes and review them for any significant statements made by FERNANDEZ concerning his connection with COLIFAM, and, if pertinent, she would contact the FBI.

On September 17, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] was contacted. She stated that she had reviewed her notes, but had found nothing else pertinent to her meeting with FERNANDEZ. She stated that she felt that she could furnish no additional information concerning COLIFAM and advised

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/23/90 BY 9113 [redacted]

Office Norfolk, Virginia

Bureau File #: 100-457899

WF 100-8833

that due to personal hardships in her family, she did not desire to be further contacted at this time.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9/1/70

Date

[REDACTED]
Virginia, furnished the following information:

She is the wife of [REDACTED] b7c
United States Air Force, who was shot down over North
Vietnam in 1967. In June, 1967, the Air Force notified
her that they had reason to believe that he was a
Prisoner of War (POW). His name has not appeared on any
list allegedly published by Hanoi. 60-8722

Every month since he was declared POW, she has
regularly directed letters to her husband to a POW camp
in Hanoi. She has used the regular postal service.

She received a letter from the Committee of
Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North
Vietnam (COLIFAM), 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New
York, postmarked January 29, 1970. The letter, which
was signed by BARBARA WEBSTER, enclosed an Information
Sheet which set forth information on the formation of
COLIFAM.

She related that she has never seen any repre-
sentative therefrom.

She stated that she had received an unsolicited
letter from EHTEN TAYLOR of the Women's Strike for Peace, a
copy of which is attached. N.Y.

She further related that she had heard from one
of the other POW wives that KENNETH KIRKPATRICK of the
American Friends Service Committee, was going to Hanoi,
so she forwarded a letter to her husband to KIRKPATRICK. In
turn, she received a letter from KIRKPATRICK, a copy of which
is attached. b7c 60-8722

[REDACTED] related that she has never testified at any
hearing concerning COLIFAM or the POW situation, and she
has not traveled overseas in an effort to ascertain

On 8/26/70

at [REDACTED] Virginia b7c 60-8722

File # NF 100-6823

by SA [REDACTED] b7c

Date dictated 8/31/70

WF 100-8833

2

Information from her husband. She stated that she has never received any mail from him and still hopes that he is alive.

b7c *Not in*
[REDACTED] stated that if necessary, she would testify as to the above if it were felt that such testimony were needed. She indicated, however, that if COLIFAM were prosecuted, it is entirely possible that this might sever the means of communication between the POWs and their wives.



TWENTY SOUTH TWELFTH STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19107
Telephone: 561-2636

January 21, 1970

Dear [REDACTED] *Lee Brown*

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

Ethel Taylor
Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way
Phila., Pa., 19151
MI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.

AMERICAN FRIE

SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.

160 North Fifteenth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY BEERITS
Chairman

HENRY J. CADBURY
Honorary Chairman

ERIKSON P. CLARK
Executive Secretary

July 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c 201-000

I deeply regret that it was not possible for me to deliver the enclosed as you had requested when I went to Hanoi in June 1970. I was told in Hanoi by Mr. Tran Trong Quat of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People that that Committee has compiled a list of 335 American servicemen who it says are held in detention camps in North Vietnam. (See attached list.) This Committee does not have responsibility for the administration of camps of detention in North Vietnam, but is the committee which invited me to visit Hanoi. Mr. Quat would accept from me only those letters which were addressed to persons on the list of 335. This is the same list which was turned over to the Committee of Liaison last April.


Mr. Quat informed me that the North Vietnam authorities have no information regarding Americans who have been captured in areas outside North Vietnam. In other words, although the name of a person who is believed to have been shot down over Laos, Cambodia, China or South Vietnam does not appear on the North Vietnam list of 335, this does not mean that that person has not survived. It only means that according to the North Vietnamese he is not a person known to them or held by them and that they, therefore, cannot deliver letters or packages to him.

Regarding those reportedly shot down over North Vietnam the refusal of Mr. Quat to accept letters for delivery because their names are not on the list of 335 implies, of course, a more somber situation, but I learned nothing more specific than that as to any particular individual.

My recent trip to Southeast Asia took me both to Hanoi and to Saigon. Both in North Vietnam and in South Vietnam, as well as here in the United States, one cannot help but see how this war has brought tragedy and sorrow into the lives of all affected by it, Americans and Vietnamese alike.

Again let me express my sincere regret that I was not able to deliver the enclosed.

Sincerely yours,


Kenneth Kirkpatrick
Peace Education Secretary
AFSC
614 N.E. 40th Street
Seattle, Washington 98105

Kirkpatrick

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date

9/23/70

Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Virginia, advised that she is the wife of [REDACTED] who was shot down over North Vietnam and declared a Prisoner of War (POW) on [REDACTED] 1967.

She has recently [REDACTED]

After her husband bailed out of his aircraft over North Vietnam, the Navy communicated with him while on the ground and it was, therefore, presumed that he was taken POW; however, his name was not officially released as a POW by Hanoi until [REDACTED] 1970.

After waiting a couple of months subsequent to May, 1970, she began writing one letter each month to her husband using the regular postal service addressing mail to the Camp of Detention in Hanoi. She had also written letters to her husband which she had given to Reverend FERNANDEZ and STEWART MEACHAM after she had heard they would be traveling to Hanoi.

In April, 1970, the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) forwarded to her the first letter that she actually received from her husband. Since that time, COLIFAM has forwarded to her two more letters from her husband.

She related that when COLIFAM was first formed during the early part of 1970, she telephoned CORA WEISS and told her that she had received no official confirmation of the POW status of her husband from Hanoi. She asked WEISS to attempt to verify his status. WEISS asked if Mrs. [REDACTED] would write a letter to COLIFAM supplying this information and also enclosing a letter for her husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] did this.

On 9/17/70

[REDACTED] Virginia

File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [REDACTED]

Date dictated 9/21/70

b7c b0 m m-2
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that all she actually wanted was one letter from her husband to confirm the fact that he is a POW. She, of course, enjoys receiving additional mail from him but in no way wants to be responsible to COLIFAM in regard to her husband.

She related that she has not been pressured in any way by representatives of COLIFAM to join their organization or act on behalf of it. She stated that she would do nothing publicly to hamper the chances of other wives getting information concerning their husbands. In this regard, she also stated that she would not be willing to testify in a court of law concerning her dealings with COLIFAM until her husband was actually released and returned home.

She stated that she has never personally met any members of COLIFAM and has not traveled overseas in an effort to learn more information about her husband.

She stated it is her personal opinion that Hanoi is apparently behind the formation of COLIFAM although emphasizing this is speculation. She feels that this is a face-saving device by Hanoi enabling Hanoi to release information about the POWs as opposed to actually giving out such information over the peace conference table in Paris.

b7c b0 m m-2
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she is reluctant to see the United States Government take action to jeopardize the chances of wives getting mail from or otherwise receiving information about their husbands.

b7c
Mrs. [REDACTED] furnished some recent communications which she stated are of interest and Xeroxed copies of same are attached.

[REDACTED]
January 18, 1970

b7c

60-1511-2

Mrs. Cora Weiss
Committee of Liason
365 West 42nd Street
New York 10036

Dear Mrs. Weiss:

Please request information from Hanoi about my husband, [REDACTED].
He was shot down on [REDACTED] 1967, and is listed as a prisoner of war by the United States Government because of information provided by other pilots and search and rescue forces. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam has never acknowledged that he is a prisoner and I have never heard from him.

b7c

60-1511-2

I am enclosing a letter to my husband which I shall appreciate your forwarding to Hanoi. Thank you for any assistance you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

b7c

60-1511-2

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

305 West 42nd Street New York, N.Y. 10018

(212) 765-1490

NY 100-8838

January 21, 1970

Chairman:

Sam Dominguez

Don Weiss

Treasurer:

Miss Anna Dornan

Committee (in formation):

Rene Davis

Rev. Richard Fernandez

Maggie Goodes

Steve Hamilton

Stewart Metcham

Prof. Ben Seitzman

Sam Taylor

Barbara Webster

Wend Young

and

Dear [REDACTED]

We received your letter asking that we inquire from Hanoi about your husband, [REDACTED]

We have cabled Hanoi and sent your letter to him along with the information you gave us so that the Vietnamese can confirm whether or not he is a prisoner in North Vietnam.

I'll enclose a copy of our Information Sheet, which will help explain what we hope to do and why we are functioning as we are. We certainly hope we'll be able to send you good news concerning your husband, and will be in touch with you as soon as word comes from Hanoi. If your husband is a prisoner in North Vietnam, we would expect to receive a letter from him to you, which we will of course forward immediately.

We understand your anguish, and hope we can be of help to you.

In hope of peace.

Maggie Goodes

1
E012812-2
67C

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

NF 100-8833

5

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-141

CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

March 25, 1970

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger

Cora Weiss

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):

Ronnie Davis

Rev. Richard Fernandez

*Maggie Geddes

*Steve Halliwell

Stewart Meehan

Prof. Ben Seitzman

Ethel Taylor

*Barbara Webster

*Trudi Young

*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c b6 b7c

We have just received word from Hanoi that a letter from [REDACTED] has been mailed to you from North Vietnam. His name was included in a list of 80 servicemen just received; this list represents advance notice of 82 letters mailed together in a package due to arrive soon. As soon as it comes, we will forward it to you. Forgive this mimeographed communication, but we wanted you to know as quickly as possible.

The Committee of Liaison was set up to facilitate communication between men who are held in North Vietnam and their families in this country. You may be interested to know that since this new arrangement was made with the North Vietnamese in December, 376 letters have been sent from Hanoi through us to families, and that as of this current notification 256 servicemen have been confirmed as held by the North Vietnamese. More mail is en route and it is expected that mail will soon be normalized.

The arrangement for mail is described in the announcement enclosed. We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us should you have further questions. In the meantime we continue to work for the immediate and complete withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam; to bring to an end the fighting, killing and capturing; and to hasten the day when all families, American and Vietnamese will be reunited.

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger
Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger